

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00637 262056Z

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: COMPARISON OF SPANISH AND ENGLISH TEXTS FOR TOR FOR COMBINED
STAFF

REF: STATE 014266

1. THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED AT SOME LENGTH WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF THE 4
QUESTIONS OF TRANSLATION RAISED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM.

TAKING THESE ONE BY ONE, THE FOLLOWING SOLUTIONS WERE AGREED

AND WE HOPE THESE WILL SATISFY THE DEPT'S REQUIREMENTS:

(A) PAGE 2, PARA 4.2: THE SPANISH VERSION IS TAKEN DIRECTLY
FROM THE SPANISH TEXT OF THE TREATY (ART 4, SUPP AGREEMENT 5).

FURTHER, OUR SPANISH INTERLOCUTORS ASSURE US THAT, WHILE THE
SPANISH MAY NOT BE ELEGANT, THERE CAN BE NO CONFUSION THAT ITS
INTENT AND THAT OF THE ENGLISH TEXT ARE IDENTICAL. WE THERE-
FORE AGREED THAT THE TWO TEXTS SHOULD REMAIN AS THEY NOW STAND.

(B) PAGE 3, PARA 4.3.3: IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THE WORD "SU"
IN THE LAST PHRASE WILL BE CHANGED TO "LA" IN ORDER TO REFLECT
MORE CLEARLY THE INTENTION OF THE ENGLISH PHRASE "PLANS AND
WARTIME READINESS." THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE
SPANISH SIDE REGARDING THE MEANING OF THE ENGLISH TEXT AND
THEY ARGUE THAT THE SPANISH TEXT, WITH THIS SINGLE CHANGE,
ADEQUATELY CONVEYS THAT MEANING AS WELL. WE AGREE.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 00637 262056Z

(C) PAGE 3, PARA 4.3.5: THE ENGLISH EXPRESSION "AIRCRAFT
CONTROL AND WARNING" IS CORRECTLY TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH
SIMPLY BY THE EXPRESSION "ALERTA Y CONTROL." THIS SPANISH
EXPRESSION IS THE ONE REGULARLY USED BY THE SPANISH MILITARY,
THERE BEING NO OTHER SPANISH CONTROL AND WARNING SYSTEMS
BESIDES THAT RELATED TO AIR THREATS. THEREFORE NO CHANGE IN
EITHER THE ENGLISH OR SPANISH TEXTS SEEMS REQUIRED.

(D) PAGE 5, PARA 5.5.2(A): THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO SPANISH WORD FOR "COUNTERAIR." HOWEVER, THE SPANISH CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE TERM AS USED BY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND BELIEVE THEY HAVE PRODUCED AN ACCEPTABLE TRANSLATION. THEIR TRANSLATION, IN FACT, IS ALMOST A WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION OF THE DEFINITION IN ENGLISH OF COUNTERAIR CONTAINED IN JCS PUB 1 ENTITLED "DEPT OF DEFENSE DICTIONARY OF MILITARY AND ASSOCIATED TERMS" OF 3 SEPT 1974. THIS DEFINES COUNTERAIR AS "A UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TERM FOR AIR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED TO ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN A DESIRED DEGREE OF AIR SUPERIORITY..." THIS MATTER HAS APPARENTLY ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH BY SPANISH MILITARY OFFICIALS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH EUCOM AND JCS. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE AMERICAN CONCEPT OF COUNTERAIR AS USED HERE IS ACCEPTED BY THE SPANISH MILITARY AND THAT THE SPANISH RENDITION IS ADEQUATE. TO IMPROVE ON WHAT WE HAVE HERE MIGHT REQUIRE CHANGING THE ENGLISH TEXT.

2. THUS, IN SUM, THE ONLY CHANGE IN THE SPANISH TEXT WHICH IS NOW BEING MADE IS THAT OF THE ONE WORD "SU" TO "LA" AS INDICATED ABOVE. THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF PROPOSES TO TREAT IT AS A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR. TO PROPOSE FURTHER CHANGES, THEY ARGUE, WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER REVIEW OF THE TEXT BY ALL SPANISH MILITARY SERVICES, WHICH WOULD DELAY APPROVAL OF THE TOR FOR AS MUCH AS SEVERAL MONTHS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AT THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING ON FEB 9, WE HAV REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE MECHANISM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00637 262056Z

INDICATING APPROVAL SHOULD BE A SIMPLE ONE. A PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD APPEAR MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY WOULD HAVE THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL INITIAL ONE ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY OF THE TEXT IN EACH LANGUAGE, WITH THE ENGLISH ORIGINAL BEING RETAINED BY THE SPANISH SIDE AND THE SPANISH ORIGINAL BEING RETAINED BY THE US SIDE. SINCE THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE NOT AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, BUT RATHER A DOCUMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT, WE ASSUME THIS SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE WILL BE SATISFACTORY.

4. WE WILL NEED TO HAVE THE LANGUAGE-CERTIFIE ENGLISH TEXT IN OUR HANDS NO LATER THAN FEB 7 IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REVIEW IT WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL METING. STIBLE

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